PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Application No.:	10/563,246	Examiner:	Jeremy SEVERSON
Filing Date:	May 3, 2006	Art Unit:	3653
First Inventor:	Peter DOPFER	Customer No.:	23364
Attorney No.:	DOPF3003/JJC/PMB	Confirm. No.:	8678
For:	CONTINUOUS SEPARATION OF LOOSE SHEETS		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Pursuant to Rule 37 CFR. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted on forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each foreign patent or non-patent literature listed on forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B is submitted herewith.

Statement of Relevancy

Japanese publication no. 09-104539 A was cited by the Japanese patent office in an office action regarding the Japanese patent application corresponding to the above-identified application. The relevancy of the '539 publication is by way of its disclosure of a continuous paper feeder having a vertically movable lift base 4 and a sublift base 20 (formed of a plurality of support bars 33) capable of vertical lift movement independently of the lift base 4

(machine translation paragraphs [0007], [0008]). The support bars 33 can be horizontally slid into and out of slots/grooves 8 in the lift base 4 (machine translation paragraph [0010]). Thus, a mechanism to provide continuous paper feeding is disclosed.

The remaining documents have been listed in a notice of opposition, filed June 29, 2010 against European patent EP 1644277 B1, corresponding to the above-identified application.

Of these cited documents, the relevancy of the U.S. patent documents 5,871,209, 5,011,126, and 6,000,691 is apparent from a reading of the documents.

The relevancy of European publication EP 0535361 A2 is by way of its disclosure of a sheet feeder for sheet-processing machines. The sheet feeder includes a pile table 2 for receiving a main pile 4. The pile table 2 can be raised and lowered by a hoist 3. A non-stop device having at least one supporting rack 13 receives a residual pile 4a from the pile table 2. The supporting rack 13is retractable and extendible and can be received in grooves 5a of the pile table. Thus a mechanism to provide sheet feeding is disclosed.

The other documents are cited in the notice of opposition as evidence in support of showing a prior sale of a CPS 2400 Autofeeder device in Europe prior to the priority date of the above-identified application. The sale in Europe is not believed to be relevant, but as part of the European sale, a factory acceptance test (FAT) of a CPS 2400 Autofeeder device was apparently scheduled for performance in Dallas, TX on the dates September 27-29, 1999 (see "Agenda for the Factory Acceptance Test," "Factory Acceptance Test Documentation," and "Lubbers Declaration").

A feature of the CPS 2400 Autofeeder device which was evaluated during the factory acceptance test is described in detail in the "CPS 2400 Autofeeder Field Service Training Manual," dated June 30, 2000, and the "CPS 2400 Autofeeder Operator User Guide," dated September 30, 1999. In particular, the right and left paddles of the CPS 2400 Autofeeder are shown in Figs. 2-2, 2-3, 2-9, and 2-10 of the CPS 2400 Autofeeder Field Service Training

Manual and in Fig. 2 of the CPS 2400 Autofeeder Operator User Guide. As discussed in the training manual and the user guide, the right paddle is moved both vertically (y-axis) and laterally (x-axis), and the left paddle is moved vertically (y-axis).

From the CPS 2400 Autofeeder Field Service Training Manual (page 2-2) it appears that the CPS 2400 Autofeeder operates in conjunction with a robot arm. In particular, "The exposed part of the Robot Arm moves documents into the receiving deck and then retracts back (z-axis)." Thus, while it appears from this passage that the robot arm retracts back along the z-axis, there is no clear teaching as to how (in which direction) the robot arm moves the documents into the receiving deck. The autofeed mode of the robot arm discussed on page 4-4 of the CPS 2400 Autofeeder Field Service Training Manual and on page 11 of the CPS 2400 Autofeeder Operator User Guide also do not provide clear teachings as to how (in which direction) the robot arm moves the documents into the receiving deck.

It is noted that the stack inserting device, as recited in pending claims 1 and 13 of the pending application, moves a stack of loose sheet material to be singled along an insertion direction into the deposit position, and that the first feeding element recited in claims 1 and 13 moves along two axes relative to the singling unit, the first axis being parallel to the feeding path, and the second axis being orthogonal to both the feeding part and the insertion direction. Thus, the insertion direction recited in claims 1 and 13 is orthogonal to the second axis along which the recited first feeding element is movable.

Statement Regarding Translations

English language translations of the non-English language documents are not available to Applicants' attorney apart from English language abstracts and/or English language machine translations appended to the documents.

Statement of Timeliness

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted as a submission accompanying a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

Conclusion

Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-0200.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures.

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Respectfully submitted,

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